

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



8

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G06T 15/10	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/27266 (43) International Publication Date: 12 October 1995 (12.10.95)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB95/00751</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 31 March 1995 (31.03.95)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9406515.8 31 March 1994 (31.03.94) GB</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ARGONAUT TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED [GB/GB]; 70 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5ER (GB).</p> <p>(72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DAY, Michael, Robin [GB/GB]; 38 Falkland Avenue, New Southgate, London N11 1JS (GB).</p> <p>(74) Agents: WILLIAMS, John, Francis et al.; Williams, Powell & Associates, 34 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7PB (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: CA, GB, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>
(54) Title: FAST PERSPECTIVE TEXTURE MAPPING FOR 3-D COMPUTER GRAPHICS		
(57) Abstract		
<p>A method of processing computer graphics information for rendering an image on a display, comprising texture mapping of a pre-prepared texture map to flat surfaces of an object which is to be viewed in perspective on the display, wherein each surface to be texture mapped is scanned along notional lines of constant z (depth) coordinate (z-lines) to determine the end coordinates of those lines, to which the texture values of the pre-prepared texture map can be mapped without modification for perspective.</p>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

FAST PERSPECTIVE TEXTURE MAPPING FOR 3-D COMPUTER GRAPHICS

This invention relates to planar texture mapping for 3-D computer graphics.

This is the task of applying a prestored or generated image to the flat surface of a 3-D object when the object is viewed in perspective on a display. The projected images must be drawn in perspective. It is difficult to do this in real time, i.e. so that, animations appear to happen smoothly, particularly for computer games which often do not have sufficient computing power. Details of the subject can be found in "3-D Computer Animation" by Vince, Addison-Wesley (1992).

The techniques currently used can be divided into two categories: (a) those which explicitly calculate the texture coordinates for every pixel of the polygon to be rendered - this involves certain calculations to be performed at each pixel, in particular at least one divide operation; and (b) those which evaluate the texture coordinates only at the edges of each horizontal span of the polygon, and then use a linear interpolation scheme to approximate their values at the intermediate pixels (or some other form of approximation).

Techniques that fall into category (a) above give rise to much longer execution times than those in category (b), for all but the smallest of polygons to be rendered. This makes them unsuitable for real-time rendering systems unless dedicated rendering hardware is used.

On the other hand, the reduced running times of techniques in category (b) are offset by the loss of accuracy incurred in the texture projection. If polygons rendered using these techniques are viewed close up, distortion of

the texture will be seen, to a degree which may be unacceptable.

The proposed solution is to scan convert the polygon not along horizontal scanlines but along carefully chosen angled lines, representing the lines of constant z -coordinate. Accordingly, the invention proposes a method of processing computer graphics information for rendering an image on a display, comprising texture mapping of a pre-prepared texture map to flat surfaces of an object which is to be viewed in perspective on the display, characterised in that each surface to be texture mapped is scanned along notional lines of constant z (depth) coordinate (z -lines) to determine the end coordinates of those lines, to which the texture values of the pre-prepared texture map can be mapped without modification for perspective.

To fully understand the invention, an example of the inventive technique will now be described with reference to the drawing.

Figure T1 shows the outline of a planar polygon which is to be rendered with texture from a texture map whose uv -coordinate space is indicated by the gridlines. Consider a plane of constant z , with respect to the view space coordinates. Unless the plane of the polygon itself lies parallel to this plane, the two planes will intersect in a line of constant z . A set of such planes gives rise to a set of parallel lines, referred to here as z -lines.

Such a set of z -lines is shown for the example polygon, in Figure T2. For texture which is mapped onto the polygon along a z -line, there is no perspective foreshortening as all the points have equal z -coordinate. The z -line can therefore be rendered using two DDAs, one to track the line in uv -space, and one to obtain the screen pixels it maps to. The only texture coordinates explicitly calcu-

lated for the z-line are those at its endpoints.

The method for rendering the whole polygon is therefore to drop the notion of horizontal scanlines, and instead to draw parallel to the z-lines. For a particular polygon, the gradient of the z-lines in view coordinates can be calculated from a knowledge of the polygon's plane equation and the geometry of the projection.

We must ensure that when drawing these angled lines, care is taken to write to each pixel of the polygon once and only once. A scheme that permits this is illustrated in Figure T3. The pixels making up a representative z-line can be obtained by a standard Bresenham line draw. The remaining z-lines are generated by vertically translating the representative z-line by the appropriate number of pixels if the line is at less than 45 degrees to the horizontal, and horizontally translating it if the line is at 45 degrees or more.

Finally, the texture coordinates must be evaluated for the start and end of each z-line drawn to. This can either be done explicitly every time new coordinates are required, or by making use of the fact that the numerator and denominator of each of u and v are linear in both screen coordinates, and can therefore be maintained incrementally as scan conversion proceeds.

A problem is encountered when trying to render polygons in this way. For convex polygons rendered using a simple horizontal scan, each span consists of a contiguous block of pixels. This is not always the case for convex polygons rendered using a z-line scan. Figure T4 shows the situation where a polygon edge and the z-lines have almost equal gradients - the set of pixels on a particular z-line which lie in the interior of the polygon forms a broken line. This is a result of interference between two inte-

ger approximation processes - one which generates the polygon edge, and one which generates the z-line. Two approaches may be taken:

(i) An approximation polygon outline can be obtained from the following observation:

If all pixel columns (rows) in the z-line pattern are shifted vertically (horizontally) so that the representative z-line becomes horizontal (vertical), then the original polygon outline is mapped to a new one which is simply a vertically (horizontally) sheared version of the original, albeit with artifacts introduced by the finite resolution. Scan conversion then proceeds by notionally rendering this new sheared polygon with ordinary horizontal (vertical) scanning, and performing the inverse shift on the pixel columns (rows) at the output stage. The result is only an approximation to the desired polygon because the inverse shift introduces the same type of artifact.

(ii) The exact polygon outline can be obtained as follows:

First a bit-per-pixel mask of the actual polygon is generated using a standard horizontal scan. The mask is then sheared vertically (horizontally) by performing column (row) shifts on the mask. The sheared mask is then used to control the output of texture along z-lines, by reading the mask in rows (columns). This produces the desired polygon at the expense of shearing and reading the bit-mask. In practice, however, it is not necessary to store the mask for the entire polygon. Assuming the z-lines lie at less than 45 degrees to the horizontal (the alternative case has a similar treatment) the scan conversion process, instead of generating the mask, is used to fill a set of buckets. Each bucket corresponds to a z-line, and

contains the screen x-coordinates of all pixel columns for which the column goes from inside the polygon to out or vice versa, on that z-line. Thus a pair of entries is made for the top and bottom of the section of a pixel column that is covered by the polygon (there may be more than one pair for a concave outline). Having generated the array of buckets, the z-lines are rendered in top-to-bottom order making use of a mask which has one bit for each pixel in a z-line. It is initially zeroed, and then updated incrementally before each z-line is rendered. For each bucket entry at a given z-line, the corresponding bit in the mask is toggled, to indicate that the pixel column has just crossed the polygon boundary on the current z-line.

If the exact polygon outline is generated using the bit-mask technique outlined in (ii) above, then the rendering part of the software is presumably capable of reading from a completely general mask, and there is no reason why we must restrict ourselves to (convex) polygons. Thus any planar shape can be texture mapped, such as concave polygons, disks, planar regions bounded by 2D splines, etc. provided a bit-mask can be generated of the projected interior.

The solution given here combines the advantages of both the categories of technique listed in the introduction, in that it produces an accurate perspective projection of the texture, while at the same time using a linear interpolation scheme to rapidly calculate texture coordinates for interior pixels of the polygon, calculating them explicitly only on the polygon boundary.

The method of scan conversion is more complicated than a standard horizontal scan. On the whole therefore, more work is required per boundary pixel. The technique will be faster than category (a) mentioned at the start only

for polygons with an interior to boundary ratio higher
than a certain value.

CLAIMS

1. A method of processing computer graphics information for rendering an image on a display, comprising texture mapping of a pre-prepared texture map to flat surfaces of an object which is to be viewed in perspective on the display, characterised in that each surface to be texture mapped is scanned along notional lines of constant z (depth) coordinate (z-lines) to determine the end coordinates of those lines, to which the texture values of the pre-prepared texture map can be mapped without modification for perspective.

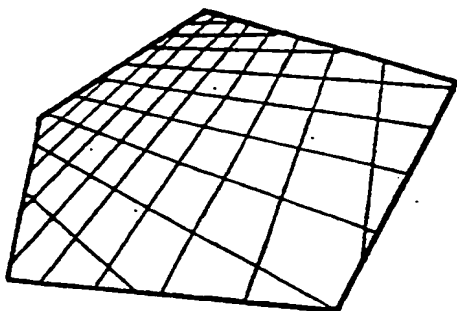
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pixels of a representative z-line are obtained by a Bresenham line-draw.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein after obtaining pixel-coordinates of a representative z-line, the remaining z-lines are obtained by vertically translating the representative z-line by the appropriate number of pixels if the line is at less than 45 degrees to the horizontal, and horizontally translating it if the line is at 45 degrees or more.

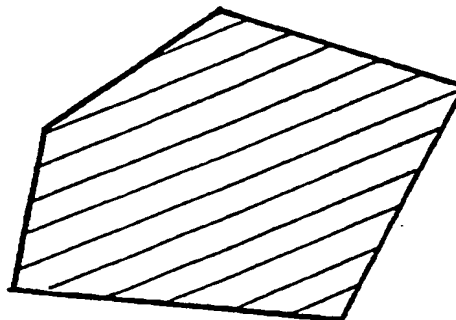
4. A method as in any preceding claim wherein the end (u,v) coordinates of the texture map line to be mapped to the object surface are explicitly calculated only once and are thereafter maintained by incremental change for succeeding scans.

5. A method of processing graphics information substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

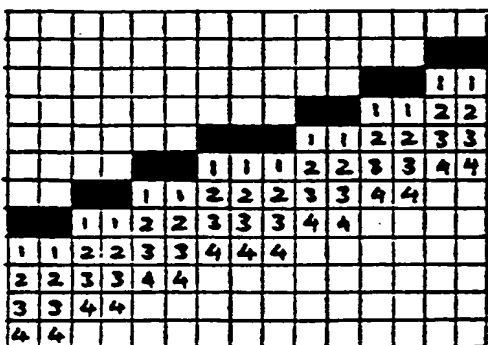
1/1



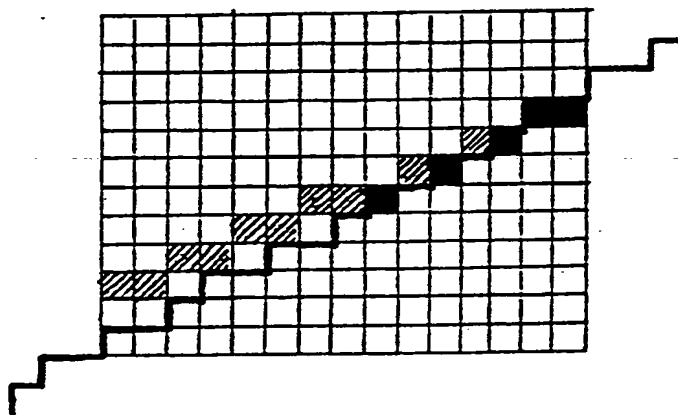
T1






T2



T3



T4

-  = polygon boundary
-  = z-line pixel outside boundary
-  = z-line pixel inside boundary

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat Application No
PCT/GB 95/00751A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 G06T15/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 G06T

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	IEEE COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND APPLICATIONS, vol. 6, no. 9, September 1986 NEW YORK US, pages 40-53, XP 000004804 BIER AND SLOAN 'TWO-PART TEXTURE MAPPING' ----	
A	EUROGRAPHICS, 2 September 1991 - 6 September 1991 AMSTERDAM NL, pages 385-396, XP 000300282 ABI-EZZI AND SHIRMAN 'TESSELATION OF CURVED SURFACES UNDER HIGHLY VARYING TRANSFORMATIONS' -----	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 June 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

22.06.95

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Burgaud, C

This Page Blank (uspto)
